

Notes
Bradford Island EPA/USACE Check-in
July 14, 2022

EPA Participants: Helen Bottcher, Rich Francis, Elizabeth Allen, Tim Maley, Kathleen Pesheck

USACE Participants: Chris Budai, Kristen Kerns

Community Interviews – Chris reported that:

- Interviews started this week. Chris was out at the site with Corps' contractor.
- Monday night – presented to Cascade Locks City Council. They will help spread the word, post on their web site
- Tuesday – at Visitor's Center on Bradford. Set up in parking lot. Also went to the fishing platforms around Bonneville. Learned that Friday afternoon is a good time to catch people at the fishing platforms, so contractor will go back then.
- Today – targeted fishing areas again, will be at Stevenson, WA library
- Next Thursday – will present to Stevenson City Council
- People can also sign up for virtual interviews

Community Involvement Plan – Corps did use Laura Knudsen's input to revise questions. Broke questions up by groups such as city and local government, Tribes, neighbors / local residents.

Helen asked for a copy of the revised interview questions. Chris said the questions are more of a guide than a formal questionnaire.

Tribal Input – Corps had a meeting with Yakama about the community interviews that did not go well. Meeting initiated by Yakama (Rose Longoria). Chris explained that Rose said Yakama is part of a government team that will be directing the Corps now that the site is listed. Discussion contentious, ended abruptly by Yakama. Rich affirmed that EPA never told the tribes that Yakama would be directing the Corps' work. Corps position is that any discussion about the FFA should stay solely among the signatories.

Tribal Involvement through Community Advisory Group (CAG) – Chris explained that the Corps will release QAPPs and other technical documents at CAG meetings, so everyone (Tribes, public, EPA, States) will get them at the same time and everyone will have the opportunity to provide comments.

EPA plan to begin Technical Coordination Team meetings – Helen announced that EPA was planning to begin holding technical meetings with Oregon, Washington, and the Tribes. EPA hopes that USACE will reverse its position that these meetings violate FACA and join in. Chris very worried that EPA will undermine the Corps' authority and that we won't be aligned.

Corps' A&E Contract for OU2

- Corps in the process of getting this contract awarded. Bill Gardiner is lead.
- Will develop a draft sampling plan and QAPP for review and comment. Hope to have draft to share in August
- Includes outside experts to help ID data gaps

- Still working out internally about when to engage EPA
- Previous TAG input on conceptual site model will inform Corps' plan
- Will require divers to set sediment traps, current meters, collect sediment/substrate samples
- Hope to sample before April 2023 when spill starts

Four follow-up items to June 23 EPA-USACE meeting at Bradford Island – Helen asked about status

1. Governance structure / partnering approach for agency coordination and a strategy for how we would elevate issues among our teams (PLT, MLT, ELT).
 - Chris said USACE is still working on this and that this is part of the FFA so attorneys will need to discuss. Rich said that is not EPA's understanding or expectation; we need a governance structure now to resolve disagreements in the interim period, until an FFA with its dispute resolution procedure is in place, as was discussed by the managers at the Bradford site visit on June 23rd.
2. Technical point of contact (at CX) for the FFA
 - See above (part of FFA so attorneys so attorneys will need to discuss)
3. Write-up on the regulatory action where USACE had FACA problems. EPA hoping to understand how the facts in that case inform a CERCLA coordination team
 - See above Corps stated that the FACA issue was part of FFA so attorneys so attorneys will need to discuss. EPA disagreed that the issue was FFA related, and that it related instead to the disbanding of the TAG. Corps stated that it was still a legal issue that would need to be discussed by the attorneys.
4. Set of projects documents being reviewed by your FFA team, or at least a list of them. EPA requesting so we can get our own review started.
 - Chris said the list will be shared when it is thoroughly vetted. Corps will provide a list of primary and secondary documents.

Forthcoming Groundwater Data Report. Dan Carlson is the lead author. He has all the data, is waiting for final data validation. Will be just a data report, no interpretations. Chris to send date when report is expected.

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- Corps is going to limit themselves to data collected to date (so no additional sampling planned)
- Not developing remedial alternatives; were told not to until FFA is in place, due to large risk of re-work
- Helen asked if risk assessments will be re-done / updated. Kristen explained that they will, but only to make sure nothing was missed. Were COCs missed that would change the risk conclusion or cleanup footprint? Could bring in additional COCs if concentrations increased in this last round of data from the Sandblast Grit Area, for example.